

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 EB-11 AGR-20 COME-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IGA-02 DRC-01 /147 W
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P 101150Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9627

INFO SECDEF

JCS

CINCPAC

USSAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 0538

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, TH

SUBJ: SPACE AVAILABLE TRANSPORTATION FOR SOY
BEAN SEEDS

REF : A. CINCPAC 040318Z JAN 74 (NOTAL)

B. CINCPAC 040322Z JAN 74 (NOTAL)

1. GENERAL KRIANGSAK, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF SUPREME COMMAND
AND OUR PRINCIPAL OPERATING CONTACT ON ALL MATTERS
RELATED TO US FORCES IN THAILAND, LAST OCTOBER
REQUESTED MISSION ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING SOY BEAN
SEED FOR RTG PURCHASE, INTENDED FOR RTG CIVIC
ACTION PROGRAMS IN NORTH THAILAND, INTER ALIA
AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION. PLATING
SEASON JANUARY TO MID-FEBUARY. THIS EFFORT HAS
BEEN SUCCESSFUL TO THE EXTENT THAT, AFTER SOME DELAY,
RTG HAS ISSUED A LETTER OF CREDIT FOR IMMEDIATE
PURCHASE OF APPROXIMATELY 52,000 LBS. OF SEED
FROM TRANSWORLD, FRESNO, CALIFORNIA.

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2. KRIANGSAK HAS ALSO REQUESTED ASSISTANCE TO DELIVER THESE SEED VIA MILITARY AIR ON SPACE AVAILABLE NON-REIMBURSABLE BASIS. KRIANGSAK RECOGNIZES THAT COMMERCIAL AIR SHIPMENT PROHIBITIVELY EXPENSIVE AND MILITARY FLIGHTS CURTAILED BY FUEL RESTRICTIONS, BUT NEVERTHELESS POINTS OUT THAT PROJECT BENEFICIAL TO BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS. PASSAGE OF TIME HAS NOW CREATED A SITUATION WHERE DELIVERY BY OTHER MEANS WOULD MISS CURRENT PLANTING SEASON WHICH ENDS MID-FEBRUARY AND FOR WHICH EXTENSIVE PREPARATIONS ARE ALREADY UNDERWAY IN NORTH THAILAND.

3. BOTH CINCPAC AND COMUSSAG HAVE SUPPORTED THIS COMPARATIVELY SMALL BUT EXTREMELY IMPORTANT REQUEST IN TERMS OF U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE, OPERATIONS, AND COOPERATION IN THAILAND. CINCPAC HAS INFORMED JCS/SECDEF (REFTELS) OF REQUEST AND RECOMMENDED DEPARTMENT SEEK SECDEF ASSISTANCE AND APPROVAL WHICH IS REQUIRED BY DOD DIRECTIVES.

4. EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT SUPREME COMMAND PROJECT IS VALID AND DESERVES US ASSISTANCE; CURRENT URGENCY TO EFFECT DELIVERY TO THAILAND WITHIN NEXT 30 DAYS WOULD REQUIRE EXTRAORDINARY SUPPORT, WHICH IS JUSTIFIED BY KEY POSITION OCCUPIED BY GENERAL KRIANGSAK WITH REGARD TO ALL ASPECTS OF US MILITARY ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING OPERATIONAL MATTERS UNDER CURRENT CONSIDERATION. SOY BEAN PROJECT HAS ASSUMED PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE IN HIS EYES AS TEST OF US WILLINGNESS TO GIVE SUPREME COMMAND SPECIAL CONSIDERATION, AS HAS BEEN DONE IN PAST. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES WE URGE DEPARTMENT TO COORDINATE WITH SECDEF/JCS ON URGENT BASIS TO OBTAIN EARLIEST AUTHORIZATION TO BEGIN MILITARY AIR MOVEMENT ON SPACE AVAILABLE, NON-REIMBURSABLE BASIS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROCUREMENT, TRANSPORTATION, NARCOTICS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, SOYBEANS, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BANGKO00538
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740152/aaaabwqe.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. CINCPAC 040318Z JAN 74 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Aug-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <16 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPACE AVAILABLE TRANSPORTATION FOR SOY BEAN SEEDS
TAGS: MILI, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005